

**Amendments to the Specification**

Replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 4 through 10 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is the U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US2004/019917, filed June 21, 2004, published in English, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 or 365 to This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/480,008, filed on June 21, 2003, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/519,792, filed on November 13, 2003 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/523,068, filed on November 18, 2003. This application is related to the PCT Application entitled "Method and Apparatus for Processing Biometric Images" filed concurrently herewith on June 21, 2004 under the attorney docket number 3174.1012-006, International Application No. PCT/US2004/019713. The entire teachings of the above applications are incorporated herein by reference.